GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1588
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Agricultural Research
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various research works undertaken by the various research centres/institutes under ICAR in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the farmers in the country are dependent on seeds developed by the Multi-national Companies and Private Companies, if so, the details thereof, crop-wise;

(c) the details of the funds allocated by the Government for the development of new seed varieties during the last three years and the current year to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other research institutes; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make this new research available to the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA)

(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is having research programmes in different commodity/theme based research institutes in order to increase the production and productivity of agricultural commodities in the country. These research institutes undertake the basic and strategic research programmes related to crop/animal/vegetables/fruit/fish improvement and development of production and protection technologies to form a base for applied research. The information so developed is used by respective All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs) and All India Network Projects (AINPs) located in different state agricultural universities, to develop location-specific varieties/breeds and technologies as per the agro-ecological needs for enhancing the production and productivity. The improvement programmes lay emphasis on development of new crop varieties/hybrids, with improved quality and tolerance/resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses and making crops able to withstand the weather extremities. A total of 309 varieties comprising of cereals (192), oilseeds (42), pulses (39), fiber crops (13), forage crops (10) and sugarcane (13) have been released during the last three years (2012-14). Further, 81 varieties comprising cereals (49), oilseeds (16), pulses (8), fiber crops (3), forage crops (4) and sugarcane (1) have been released during 2015. Besides field crops, a total 155 varieties of horticultural crops were also released during this period. Targeted integration of economically important genes through structural and functional genomics/molecular breeding has been strengthened.

(b) There is no dependency of farmers on seed developed by multinational and private companies, while a part of the seeds comes from them. ICAR through its Seed Project is shouldering the responsibility in ensuring the quality seed production, especially of breeder seed and production of quality seed of other classes of newly released improved varieties. Breeder Seed Production is taken up based on indents received from Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, which in turn is compiled as per the requirements received from different states. There has been a significant progress in quality seed production of all classes during 2014-15. Breeder seed production has touched the production level of 97,982 q against the target of 72,030 q. Similarly, there has been more than the targeted quantities of quality seeds produced among various classes viz., Foundation Seed (1,75,622 q), Certified Seed (1,28,465 q), Truthfully Labelled (TFL) Seed (1,40,006 q) and Planting Material (34,176 q). Only among a few crops of high value-low volume seed enterprises like vegetable seeds and proprietary technology of Bt Cotton, there is a domination of private companies in the seed supply to the farmers. In addition to crops, quality semen is also being provisioned to farmers as well as development agencies for rearing as well as improvement of the existing animal germplasm under farm and field conditions.

(c) Funds allocated for the development of seeds varieties during the last three years and the current year.
Rs. In Lakh

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
3229.97	2938.12	5552.47	5076.50

(d) The ICAR institutes, SAUs and Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also engaged in nationwide Frontline Demonstrations (FLDs) of new crop varieties/hybrids and improved management practices to create awareness among the farmers, about the newly released crop technologies, as also improve the productivity of crops at the farmers' fields. Further, they also organize Krishi Melas, Kisan Sangaosthis, Scientist Farmer Interaction, Farmers' field Days and provide extension literature in Hindi, English and various regional languages, to popularize and promote new technologies.

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